IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, immediately following the "Title" please insert the following paragraph:

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Cross-Reference to Related Application

This application is a divisional of U.S. application Serial No. 09/944,565 filed September 4, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. _____.

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Paragraph beginning at page 7, line 21:

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Within outer carton 20 is an inner liner 50 extending from bottom 22 to top edges 32, 34, 36, and 38 and having an octagonal cross-sectional configuration formed by eight vertically extending planar walls 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66 which are joined to one another at liner corners 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, and 82. The inner surfaces of liner walls 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66 form a portion of the coil receiving recess 18 and the width of the liner between opposed pairs of the walls is equivalent to the outer diameter 84 of wire coil 16. In this respect, liner walls 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66 support the wire coil 16 and prevent the same from expanding with respect to outer diameter 84. Liner walls 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, and 66 are supported by the side panels of outer carton 20 and by triangular corner supports 90, 92, 94, and 96 which also extend essentially from bottom wall 22 to top edges 32, 34, 36, and 38. More particularly, the outer surfaces of liner walls 52, 56, 60, and 64 are supported by side panels ~~24, 26, 28, and 30~~ 28, 30, 24, and 26, respectively, while the outer surfaces of liner walls 54, 58, 62, and 66 are supported by corner supports ~~90, 92, 94, and 96~~ 94, 96, 90, and 92, respectively. As with outer carton 20, inner liner 50 and the corner supports 90, 92, 94, and 96 are preferably made from cardboard or other similar materials.

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Paragraph beginning page 9, line 5:

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Retainer ring 12 is a substantially planar body with an inner opening 170 providing an inner edge 172, and having an outer peripheral edge 174. Inner opening 170 has a diameter 176 which is greater than the diameter 158 of ~~outer~~ inner sleeve 150 whereby a payout gap 178 is provided therebetween for allowing wire 112 to pass the ring during payout. Outer peripheral edge 174 includes eight extensions or nodes 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 which are essentially equally spaced thereabout. Adjacent extensions 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 are joined by radially inwardly extending curvilinear node edges 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, and 214. While edges 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, and 214 are shown as being arcuate, other configurations can be utilized a few of which will be discussed hereinafter. Nodes 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 include outer extension edges 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, and 230, respectively, which are preferably rounded. When retainer ring 12 is in its operating position within coil receiving recess 18, its bottom surface 232 is juxtaposed coil top 108, and inner opening 170 is substantially co-axial with axis 120. In addition, nodes 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 extend outwardly from axis 120 beyond outer surface 100 of wire coil 16 and into liner corners 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, and 82, respectively. At least one of outer extension edges 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, and 230 interengages inner liner 50 at the corresponding liner corner which prevents rotation and promotes alignment of retaining ring 12 relative to inner liner 50 and coil 16. Inwardly curved edges 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, and 214 extend inwardly toward axis 120 and extend radially within outer surface 100. This configuration further reduces the frictional engagement between outer peripheral edge 174 and inner liner 50 by reducing the contact between ring 12 and liner 50, and by spacing outer edge 174 from the point of engagement between outer surface 100 of coil 16 and liner 50. As stated above, the coil 16 and/or the liner 50 can be deformed by outward forces in the coil acting against the liner 50 which can affect the movement and alignment of ring 12. Further, by having the nodes 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, and 194 which extend beyond the outer surface 100 of wire coil 16, the convolutions of wire 112 are not likely to pass about the outside of retainer ring 12 even though there is little frictional interengagement between retainer ring 12 and inner liner 50. These configurations allow a lightweight and easily disposable retainer ring to be used which performs similarly to the more expensive and heavier retainer rings heretofore used. In fact, by including nodes which extend beyond the outer surface 100 of the wire coil, the likelihood of the convolution of wire coil 16 escaping outside of retainer ring 12 is reduced compared to prior art retainer rings.

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Paragraph beginning page 10, line 15:

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Referring to FIGURE 5, a retainer ring 260 is shown having four nodes 262, 264, 266, and 268 which are interengaged by straight node edges 270, 272, 274, and 276. In essence, retainer ring 260 has a square outer peripheral edge 278. In similar fashion to retainer ring 12, retainer ring 260 includes an inner opening 280 producing an inner edge 282 with an inner diameter 284 similar to inner diameter 176 of ring 12 and which forms the payout gap 286 with inner sleeve 150. Nodes 262, 264, 266, and 268 extend beyond the outer surface 100 of wire coil 16 thereby preventing the convolutions of wire on coil 16 from extending upwardly past the outer peripheral edge 278 of retainer ring 260. Further, nodes 262, 264, 266, and 268 extend into diametrically opposite liner corners such as corners ~~68, 72, 76, and 80~~ 78, 82, 70, and 74 in Figure 5, so that at least one node engages a corner of liner 50 to center and prevent retainer ring 260 from rotating relative to package 14 while minimizing frictional interengagement with the liner.

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